



TEXAS ~ NEW MEXICO
HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE ORGANIZATION

Rio Grande Hospice & Palliative Care Conference

Date: April 24th

Edinburg Conference Center at Renaissance

This educational activity is jointly provided by AXIS Medical Education and Texas-New Mexico Hospice & Palliative Care Organization

AGENDA

8:00am – 8:30am | Registration/Breakfast/Welcome Attendees/Announcements

8:30am – 9:30am | Advocating for the Role of Hospice Professionals in the Interdisciplinary Team | Terry Andrade, LMSW, Hospice Medical Social Worker | Hospice professionals play a crucial role in ensuring that patients and families receive holistic, compassionate care at the end of life. This session will explore their responsibilities in advance care planning, grief support, and addressing the psychosocial and emotional needs of patients. Attendees will gain insights into the importance of advocacy, emotional support, and resource coordination within the interdisciplinary team to enhance patient-centered care.

9:30am – 9:45am | BREAK

9:45am – 10:45am | Core Competencies for Hospice Leadership and Interdisciplinary Collaboration | James Castillo, MD, FACP, HMDC, Medical Director, DHR Health Hospice & Palliative Care | The hospice medical director plays a key role in coordinating the care of the patient starting from prior to admission and beyond their death. This presentation will highlight the core competencies a medical director should continually develop to optimize the care patients receive and ensure regulatory compliance. As an equal member of the hospice interdisciplinary group, the medical director can learn from and teach other group members in hopes of continually improving patient care and outcomes while elevating the quality of the entire hospice organization.

10:45am – 11:00am – BREAK

11:00am – 12:30am | Documentation for Eligibility & Audit Readiness – QAPI Review | Rosalind Nelson Gamblin, Consultant | Learners will be able to explain the key elements of the physician's eligibility statement. They will also be able to identify the essential components of strong documentation for both initial and comprehensive assessments across all disciplines. Additionally, learners will gain an understanding of how measurable care goals in the hospice plan of care are linked to QAPI (Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement) measures.

12:30pm – 1:15pm Lunch

1:15pm – 2:15pm | VA Disability Claims and Benefits Overview | Elaine Duque, Enrollment & Eligibility Coordinator, VA TX Valley Coastal Bend Health Care System and David Briaes, MPA, Claims Benefit Advisor, Texas Veterans Commission Southwest Division | This session will provide a comprehensive overview of the benefits available to surviving spouses and dependents of veterans. Topics will include Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), Survivor's Pension, and Burial and Memorial benefits reimbursement, with guidance on the application process and required documentation through the Texas Veterans Commission. Additionally, the presentation will cover essential steps for managing benefits after a veteran's passing, such as canceling appointments, updating records, obtaining death certificates, and working with Veteran Service Officers (VSO) to ensure a smooth transition.

2:15pm – 2:30pm – BREAK

2:30pm - 3:30pm | Navigating Difficult Conversations: Advanced Directives, DNRs, and Family Decision Making in Hospice Care | Jose Juarez, LBSW, MSW, Director, La Mision Palliative Care and Hospice | This session will focus on the challenging but crucial conversations hospice professionals must have with patients and their families. Topics will include discussing advanced directives, do-not-resuscitate (DNR) orders. Attendees will gain insight into fostering effective communication, ensuring that families understand the progression of a terminal illness, and making informed decisions during emotionally complex times.

3:30pm – 3:45pm | BREAK

3:45pm – 4:30pm | Open Panel Discussion with Speakers | This session provides attendees with the opportunity to delve deeper into the content covered throughout the day, allowing for further exploration of key topics.

Texas & New Mexico Hospice Organization is an approved provider of continuing education for Hospice Administrators by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

Learners are advised that accredited status does not imply endorsement by the provider or ANCC of any commercial products displayed in conjunction with an activity. CEUs: Pending, check back soon.

ACCREDITED CONTINUING EDUCATION

Accreditation Statement



In support of improving patient care, this activity has been planned and implemented by AXIS Medical Education and Texas-New Mexico Hospice & Palliative Care Organization. AXIS Medical Education is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.



ASWB approved continuing education **Social Workers**

As a Jointly Accredited Organization, AXIS Medical Education is approved to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program.

Organizations, not individual courses, are approved under this program. State and provincial regulatory boards have the final authority to determine whether an individual course may be accepted for continuing education credit. AXIS Medical Education maintains responsibility for this course. Social workers completing this course receive 6.25 continuing education credit.

Disclosure of Relevant Financial Relationships

AXIS Medical Education requires faculty, instructors, authors, planners, directors, managers, peer reviewers, and other individuals who are in a position to control the content of this activity to disclose all personal financial relationships they may have in the past 24 months with ineligible companies. An ineligible entity is any organization whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients. All relevant financial relationships are identified and mitigated prior to initiation of the planning phase for an activity.

AXIS has mitigated and disclosed to learners all relevant financial relationships disclosed by staff, planners, faculty/authors, peer reviewers, or others in control of content for this activity.

Disclosure of a relationship is not intended to suggest or condone bias in any presentation but is made to provide participants with information that might be of potential importance to their evaluation of a presentation or activity. Disclosure information for faculty, authors, course directors, planners, peer reviewers, and/or relevant staff is provided with this activity.

The following faculty reported no financial relationships they have with ineligible companies of any amount during the past 24 months:

James Castillo, MD, FACP, HMDC	Rosalind Nelson Gamblin
Terry Andrade, LMSW	Jose Juarez, LBSW, MSW
David Briaes, MPA	Elaine Duque

Name of Planner/Manager/Peer Reviewer/Relevant Staff	Reported Financial Relationship
Keith Parker, MBA	Nothing to disclose
Jennifer Hodge	Nothing to disclose
Brandie Baker, CAE	Nothing to disclose
James Castillo, MD, FACP, HMDC	Nothing to disclose
Jose Juarez, LBSW, MSW	Nothing to disclose
Isabel Medelez	Nothing to disclose
Sany Hinojosa	Nothing to disclose
Melissa Coronado Flores	Nothing to disclose
Abel Gil	Nothing to disclose

CONFERENCE INFORMATION:

Overview:

The purpose of this educational activity is to enhance the comfort and skills of the General and Hospice and Palliative Care Professional by addressing skills for working with providers, patients, and families with multiple disciplines to serve the patients and families.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify strategies for enhancing interprofessional communication and collaboration within hospice and palliative care teams to improve patient and family outcomes.
- Explore innovative methods for documenting patient care for eligibility.

Disclaimer

Participants have an implied responsibility to use the newly acquired information to enhance patient outcomes and their own professional development. The information presented in this activity is not meant to serve as a guideline for patient management. Any procedures, medications, or other courses of diagnosis or treatment discussed in this activity should not be used by clinicians without evaluation of patient conditions and possible contraindications or dangers in use, review of any applicable manufacturer's product information, and comparison with recommendations of other authorities.

Requirements for Social Worker Credit:

- Attend/participate in the educational activity and review all course materials.
- Complete the CE Attestation form online by **11:59 pm ET May 24, 2025**. Instructions will be provided. If you do not enter the online portal by the above date, you will not be able to retrieve your statement of participation.
- Upon successful completion of the online form, your statement of completion will be presented to you for print/save.

TNMHPO

UPCOMING EVENTS 2025

**24
APR**

RIO GRANDE
VALLEY
CONFERENCE
EDINBURG, TX

TBD

LEADERSHIP &
MARKETING
CONFERENCE

**21
AUG**

EAST TEXAS
CONFERENCE
TYLER/LONGVIEW,
TX


**7-8
OCT**

MACTOBERFEST -
HOSPICE BILLING
GALVESTON, TX

**6-8
MAR
2026**

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